

Amendments to the Claims:

No claims have been amended herein. Please note that all claims currently pending and under consideration in the referenced application are shown below. Please enter these claims as presented. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Previously Presented) The anti-theft device as claimed in claim 35, wherein the control circuit of the RIC unit communicates with a memory and an input device, the memory storing data relating to the electronic apparatus, wherein said control circuit maintains the shut-off unit in the shut-off state until predetermined data corresponding to the electronic apparatus data is entered by way of the input device.
3. (Previously Presented) The anti-theft device as claimed in claim 35, wherein the control circuit of the RIC unit comprises part of a coded reset device, the shut-off unit remaining in the shut-off state until a predetermined code is input to the reset device.
4. (Previously Presented) The anti-theft device as claimed in claim 35, further comprising a message activating unit communicating with the RIC unit, the message activating unit activating a message in accordance with the shut-off signal.
5. (Previously Presented) The anti-theft device as claimed in claim 35, wherein the shut-off unit comprises a fusible link.
6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 36, the method further comprising maintaining the shut-off unit in a shut-off state until predetermined data corresponding to the unique identifier is entered via an input device coupled to the RIC unit.

8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 36, wherein the control circuit of the RIC unit comprises part of a coded reset device, the method further comprising maintaining the shut-off unit in a shut-off state until a predetermined code is input to a reset device of the RIC unit.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 36, wherein the anti-theft device further includes a message activating unit, the method further comprising activating a message in accordance with the shut-off signal.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 36, wherein the shut-off unit further includes a fusible link.

11. (Previously Presented) An anti-theft device for shutting off an operable electronic apparatus subsequent to the electronic apparatus being stolen from its owner, the anti-theft device comprising:

a communication unit incorporated within the casing of the electronic apparatus and comprising:

a memory configured to receive and store therein unique identifier stored data of a specific one of the electronic apparatus;

means for inputting the unique identifier stored data into the memory at a point of sale;

a receiver for receiving a signal transmitted from an interrogator, and

a control circuit that is coupled to the receiver for determining whether the received signal designates the unique identifier stored data of the anti-theft device and, if

so, for determining whether the signal includes an electronic apparatus shut-off command generated by the interrogator in response to a notification from the owner that the electronic apparatus has been stolen, and, if so, for producing a shut-off signal, and a power blocking circuit responsive to the shut-off signal for placing the electronic apparatus in a shut-off state by blocking the flow of electricity from a power source of the electronic apparatus to normal utilization circuitry of the electronic apparatus.

12. (Previously Presented) The anti-theft device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the communication unit further comprises a transmitter and the control circuit also produces a return signal that is transmitted to the interrogator via the transmitter to provide tracking data for the electronic apparatus.

13. (Previously Presented) The anti-theft device as claimed in claim 12, wherein the tracking data comprises location coordinates derived from a global positioning system satellite.

14. (Previously Presented) The anti-theft device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the communication circuit further comprises a transmitter and the control circuit also produces a return signal that is transmitted to the interrogator via the transmitter to acknowledge receipt of the signal including the electronic apparatus shut-off command.

15. (Previously Presented) The anti-theft device as claimed in claim 11,
wherein the control circuit compares input data supplied to the anti-theft device with the unique identifier stored data stored in the memory to authenticate the input data, and
wherein the electronic apparatus remains in the shut-off state until the input data is authenticated.

16. (Previously Presented) The anti-theft device as claimed in claim 15, wherein the unique identifier stored data comprises purchase data.

17. (Previously Presented) The anti-theft device as claimed in claim 15, wherein the unique identifier stored data comprises purchaser data.

18. (Previously Presented) The anti-theft device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the power blocking circuit comprises a transistor having a current path connected between the power source of the electronic apparatus and the normal utilization circuitry of the electronic apparatus, and a control terminal supplied with the shut-off signal.

19. (Previously Presented) The anti-theft device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the power blocking circuit comprises:

first and second parallel current paths, one end of each of the first and second current paths being connected to a power source of the electronic apparatus;

a fuse having a first end coupled to the other end of each of the first and second current paths and a second terminal coupled to the normal utilization circuitry of the electronic apparatus;

a first transistor having a current path connected between the second terminal of the fuse and a power supply potential, and a control terminal supplied with the shut-off signal,

wherein, in the shut-off state, current flows through a current path including the first transistor with a magnitude sufficient to blow the fuse.

20. (Previously Presented) The anti-theft device as claimed in claim 19, wherein the first current path comprises a second transistor and the second current path comprises a resistor.

21. (Previously Presented) The anti-theft device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the signal is transmitted from the interrogator via a satellite link.

22. (Previously Presented) The anti-theft device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the signal is transmitted from the interrogator via a cellular telephone link.

23. (Previously Presented) The anti-theft device according to claim 11, wherein the electronic apparatus is a consumer electronic device.

24. (Previously Presented) The anti-theft device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the power blocking circuit is included within a packaged integrated circuit chip including other circuitry used by the normal utilization circuitry of the electronic apparatus.

25. (Previously Presented) The anti-theft device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the communication unit further comprises a programmable timer for periodically waking up the communication unit from an idle mode to activate the receiver to receive the signal transmitted from the interrogator.

26-34 (Canceled)

35. (Previously Presented) An anti-theft device cooperatively operable with normal utilization circuits within an electronic apparatus, comprising:

- a remote intelligent communication (RIC) unit configured for enablingly coupling with the normal utilization circuits, the RIC unit, including:

- a control circuit including:

- a memory configured to receive and store therein a unique identifier of a specific one of the electronic apparatus;

- means for inputting the unique identifier into the memory at a point of sale; and

- a transceiver configured to at least receive a signal;

- and

- a shut-off unit configured for entering a shut-off state and disabling operative power via a shut-off signal to the normal utilization

circuits in response to receipt of the signal via the transceiver of a shut-off command designating the unique identifier stored in the RIC unit.

36. (Previously Presented) A method of operating an anti-theft device cooperatively operable with normal utilization circuits within an electronic apparatus, the anti-theft device including a remote intelligent communication (RIC) unit and a shut-off unit, the method comprising:

coupling the anti-theft device to normal utilization circuits within an electronic apparatus;

inputting into a memory in the anti-theft device at a point of sale a unique identifier of a specific one of the electronic apparatus;

evaluating a received signal at the anti-theft device; and

entering a shut-off state and disabling operative power via a shut-off signal to the normal utilization circuits in response to receipt of the signal having therein a shut-off command designating the unique identifier stored in the memory.